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REMARKS

Claims 1-19, 21-24 and 26 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 21, 22 and 26 have been amended. Claims 20, 25 and 27-51 have been canceled.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 20, 21, 25 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks appearing below, which Applicants believe place the application in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1-5, 9, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,158,342 to Scruggs. Claims 1, 3-5, 9-11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by each of U.S. Patents Nos. 4,132,187 and 5,023,956 to Moebius and Fox, respectively. The Office Action states that Scruggs, Moebius and Fox disclose all of the limitations of the respective claims.

In addition, claims 12 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the Moebius patent, mentioned above. The Office Action states that Moebius discloses all of the limitations of these claims except the illuminator and the shape of the spotter and asserts that it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the Moebius teachings with an illuminator and a shaped spotter.

Applicants have amended each of independent claims 1 and 22 to include, respectively, the limitations of claims 20 and 25, which the Examiner has indicated as being patentable over the references of record. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 22, and claims 2-17 that depend therefrom, are patentable. Consequently, the rejections of these claims are moot, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the present rejections.

Withdrawn Claims 18, 19, 23 and 24

Claims 18, 19, 23 and 24 stand withdrawn as being directed to non-elected subject matter. However, Applicants respectfully assert that since these claims depend from amended claims 1 and 22 that contain allowable subject matter, claims 18, 19, 23 and 24 are also allowable.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-19, 21-24 and 26, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Therefore, prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. If any issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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